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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/663,927

09/16/2003

Tony Breen

KONAMI03-08

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12/06/2006

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EXAMINER

YOO, JASSON H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 12/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,927

Applicant(s)

BREEN ET AL.

Examiner

Jasson Yoo

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2004.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.

2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)

Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)

Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because Figs 1-5 require clear lead lines with clear reference numbers, Figs. 3-4 are illegible photocopies, and Fig. 5 contains a flow chart with missing arrows. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bennett (US 6,251,013).

Bennett discloses the following:

1. A gaming device (Fig. 1) comprising:
a game display to display a plurality of reels (30 in Fig. 1), each reel including a plurality of symbols movable with movement of the reels during play of the game to

Art Unit: 3714

produce an outcome (40 in Fig. 1), said display displaying said outcome in matrix-form (20 in Fig. 1);

a bonus trigger associated with at least one of said symbols (cols. 2:7-12, 4:13-17);

a processor configured to select a matrix location parameter and to issue a bonus upon the concurrence of (i) an outcome including a bonus trigger and (col. 1:55-67) (ii) a bonus trigger associated symbol is positioned in association with the selected matrix location parameter (cols. 1:63-64, 2:15-17, 2:22-23, 2:30-32).

2. The device of claim 1 comprising said processor configured to select said location parameter from a group consisting of (a) a coordinate of the matrix (cols. 1:64, 2-16), (b) a row of the matrix (cols. 2:32, 5:37-45) and (c) a column of the matrix (cols. 2:31, 5:37-45).

3. The device of claim 1 comprising said processor configured to (iii) randomly select between a bonus and non-bonus condition and to issue a bonus award upon the concurrence of (i), (ii) and (iii) (cols. 2:7-12, 4:13-23).

4. The device of claim 1 comprising said processor configured to control the display to display a bonus award sequence in awarding said bonus (cols. 3:41-60, 4:33-49).

Art Unit: 3714

5. The device of claim 1 comprising preselecting at least one symbol as a bonus trigger symbol and said processor configured to issue an award relative to the number of bonus trigger symbols in said outcome (The bonus symbol is used as part of the winning combination, col. 4:59. Thus the payout increases if the bonus symbols are matching combination symbols, cols. 4:60-67, 5:5-24, 5:26-34).

6. The device of claim 5 comprising said processor configured to control the display to display a bonus award sequence in an action sequence including said trigger symbols (action sequence using a fairy, cols. 4:18-23, 4:33-54).

7. A gaming device comprising:

a game display to display a plurality of reels (30 in Fig. 1), each reel including a plurality of symbols movable with movement of the reels during play of the game to produce an outcome (40 in Fig. 1), said display displaying said outcome in matrix-form (20 in Fig. 1);

a bonus trigger associated with at least one of said symbols (cols. 2:7-12, 4:13-17);

a processor configured to select a matrix location parameter and between a bonus and non-bonus condition (cols. 2:7-12, 4:13-23) and to issue a bonus upon the concurrence of (i) an outcome including a bonus trigger (col. 1:55-67), (ii) a bonus trigger associated symbol is positioned is association with the selected matrix location

Art Unit: 3714

parameter (cols. 1:63-64, 2:15-17, 2:22-23, 2:30-32) and (iii) selection of a bonus condition (col. 1:63-67).

8. The device of claim 7 comprising said processor configured to select said location parameter from a group consisting of (a) a coordinate of the matrix (cols. 1:64, 2-16), (b) a row of the matrix (cols. 2:32, 5:37-45) and (c) a column of the matrix (cols. 2:31, 5:37-45).

9. The device of claim 7 comprising said processor configured to control the display to display a bonus award sequence in awarding said bonus (cols. 3:41-60, 4:33-49).

10. The device of claim 7 comprising said processor configured to control the display to display a graphic sequence to indicate the selection of at least one of a bonus or non-bonus condition (graphic sequence using a fairy, cols. 4:18-23, 4:33-54).

11. The device of claim 7 comprising designing at least one symbol as a bonus enhancement symbol and said processor configured to determine the selection and display of said bonus enhancement symbol and to increase said bonus award (The bonus symbol is used as part of the winning combination, col. 4:59. Thus the payout increases if the bonus symbols are matching combination symbols, cols. 4:60-67, 5:5-24, 5:26-34).

12. A gaming device comprising:

a display (20 in Fig. 1);

a data structure storing data corresponding to game symbols (col. 1:41-52), at least one symbol designated as a bonus trigger symbol (col. 1:63-37);

a processor configured to (i) randomly select and display game symbols in a matrix form at the display to define at least one base game outcome (main part of the game, col. 4:6-11), (ii) randomly select at least one of a matrix location parameter and bonus on-off parameter (cols. 4:11-22, 4:50-54), (iii) detect the selection and display of a bonus trigger symbol and its correspondence to said at least one parameter to trigger a bonus award and (col. 4:52-53) (iv) if a bonus award has been triggered, issue a bonus award to the player (col. 4:58-61).

13. The device of claim 12 comprising said processor configured to randomly select a matrix location parameter from a group consisting of at least one of a row (cols. 2:32, 5:37-45), column (cols. 2:31, 5:37-45) or a matrix coordinate (cols. 1:64, 2-16).

14. The device of claim 13 comprising said processor configured to select and apply both of said selected location parameter and said bonus on-off parameter in detecting if a bonus has been triggered (col. 4:13-22).

16. A method for playing an electronic gaming device comprising:

Art Unit: 3714

providing a game display to display a plurality of reels, each reel including a plurality of symbols movable with movement of the reels during play of the game to produce an outcome, said display displaying said outcome in matrix-form (col. 3:47-52);

associating a bonus trigger with at least one of said symbols; configuring a processor for selecting a matrix location parameter and issuing a bonus upon the concurrence of detecting (cols. 4:11-22, 4:50-54) (i) an outcome including a bonus trigger (col. 4:6-17) and (ii) a bonus trigger associated symbol is positioned in association with the selected matrix location parameter (cols. 1:63-64, 2:15-17, 2:22-23, 2:30-32).

17. The method of claim 16 comprising (iii) randomly selecting between a bonus on and a bonus off condition and issuing a bonus award upon the concurrence of (i)-(iii) (cols. 2:7-12, 4:13-23).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jasson Yoo whose telephone number is (571)272-5563. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

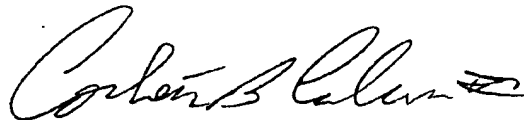
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Olszewski Robert can be reached on (571)272-6788. The fax phone

Art Unit: 3714

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JHY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Corbett B. Coburn", followed by a stylized flourish or checkmark.

CORBETT B. COBURN
PRIMARY EXAMINER